able information there are a number of officers who are giving very good results even after they have reached the limit of Rs. 10 lakhs as reward.

(c) and (d) It is true that further rewards are not admissible to such officers. However such officers are eligible to other incentives like President's Appreciation Certificate for excellent performance.

(e) Reward Policy is under challenge before the Hon'ble Supreme Court. Changes in Reward Policy shall be considered as and when a need for the same arises.

Curtailing Wasteful Expenditure on Marriages

903. DR. NARREDDY THULASI REDDY : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal under Government's consideration to bring legislation for curtailing exorbitant wasteful expenditure on marriages ;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) if not, what are the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) (a) No, Sir, there is no such proposal.

(b) In view of the answer to (a), does not arise.

(c) There is no such proposal under consideration at present. However, under the Expenditure Tax Act, all expenses incurred in the premises of up-market hotels are subject to expenditure tax at the rate of 20 per cent. Thus, the expenses incurred in connection with marriages in luxury hotels attract expenditure tax at 20 per cent. Under the existing provisions of Income-tax Act, the income-tax authorities are empowered to record statement of a person who has incurred expenditure on marriage or require any other person to furnish information in connection with the nature and extent of expenditure incurred in any function, ceremony or event. The object of this provision of the Income-tax Act is to collect evidence about obtentatious expenditure immediately after such events to be used at the time of income-tax assessment.

Paid up Share Capital for Regional Rural Banks

904. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the working group under the Chairmanship of Shri S. M. Kelkar recommended for a paid up share capital of Rs. 1 crore for each Regional Rural Bank;

(b) if so, what is the number of RRBs which have now paid up capital of Rs. 1 crore each ;

(c) whether the concerned sponsor banks and State Bank and State Government have contributed due percentage of their respective shares to the RRBs; and

(d) if not, what are the names of the defaulting sponsor banks and State Governments and what action is being taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Yes, Sir. The said Working Group recommended that the issued capital of all the RRBs may be raised from Rs. 25 lakhs to Rs. 100 lakhs in a phased manner.

(b) to (d) As at the end of March, 1993, the issued capital of nine RRBs namely Howrah Gramin Bank, Murshidabad Gramin Bank, Hissar Sirsa Kshetriya Gramin Bank, Chaitanya Grameena Bank, Arunachal Pradesh Rural Bank Surat Bharuch Gramin Bank, Valsad Dangs Gramin Bank, Junagarh Gramin Bank and Sabarkantha Gandhinagar Gramin Bank has been enhanced to Rs. 1 crore. The share capital of remaining RRBs will be enhanced

subject to the allocation of funds in the budget. Government is actively considering the restructuring/reorganisation of RRBs, and any further budgetary demand will be linked to a decision to that effect.

Advances by RRBs

905. SHRI ASHIS SEN : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Central Government have advised the Regional Rural Banks to make advances to non-target groups and if so, what extent ; and

(b) if so, what are the names of RRBs which have so far granted advances to non-target groups and the extent of such advances ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) : (a) Having regard to the general need for imparting viability to lending operation of the Regional Rural Banks (RRBs), recently relaxation in the existing norms has been made and as a result RRBs have been permitted to finance non-target groups to an extent not exceeding 40 per cent of their incremental lending. NABARD in consultation with Government had issued instructions to all RRBs vide circulars dated 12th September, 1992 and 9th January, 1993 in this regard.

(b) As reported by NABARD that Regional Banks which have already commenced non-target group lending and amounts so lent to non-target group borrowers is not available.

Refusal of World Bank Loans for Projects

906. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether the Government of India have decided to decline the World Bank loan of U.S. dollar 178 million for the 1300 Km Kandla-Bhatinda product pipeline project;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what are the reasons therefor ?

(c) whether it is a fact that the World Bank cnnstitutionalities hardly give any elbow rom for conducting negotiations with a bidder to country's long-run advantage as reported in the 'Hindustan Times' dated the 18th April, 1993; and

(d) if so, what are the other projects as on date in the country in respect of which Government have decided not to accept World Bank loan (project-wise) indicating present position and giving reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (DR. ABRAR AHMED) :

(a) and (b) Out of the loan amount of U.S. dollar 340 million extended by the World Bank to the Indian Oil Corporation for Petroleum Transport Project effective from 13-8-1989, the Government of India surrendered an amount of U.S. dollar 290 million which included a loan amount of US dollar 178 million for the Kandla-Bhatinda pipeline. This decision was taken as a part of the portfolio rationalisation review of World Bank aided projects leading to surrender of undisbursed amounts in such projects as are unlikely to be completed within the loan period, judging from their present state of progress.

(c) and (d) No, Sir. The financing of World Bank aided projects is decided by mutual consultations on terms and conditions mutually agreed to between the World Bank and Government of India.